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tury, and of which Roger Bacon, lifted out of obscurity by the accidental circumstance of his correspondence with Clement IV., is the best-known representative. It is desirable that any further revelations concerning that interesting movement should be made in a form which should be agreeable reading to the largest possible number of physicists. Now, physicists in our days are quite out of the habit of reading Latin; and therefore we would venture to suggest that a translation of any long works should accompany the text, on alternate pages.

*A Bibliography of British Municipal History*, including Gilds and Parliamentary Representation. [Harvard Historical Studies, V.] By CHARLES GROSS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University. (New York, London and Bombay: Longmans, Green and Co. 1897. Pp. xxxiv, 461.)

No more timely book has of late appeared than this handsome volume. How very urgent has been the need of such a guide is suggested by the fact that among the thousands of writings noticed in it there cannot be found one scientific treatise devoted to the general constitutional history of English boroughs. Nay, there does not appear to exist a satisfactory institutional account of any single borough, much less of any town or county, in Great Britain. Important contributions have, of course, been made, notably in the general constitutional works of Gneist, Hegel and Stubbs; while here and there a valuable essay or monograph deals in a competent way with some special phase or feature of town life or organization.

For the first time in Dr. Gross's book we have a scientific bibliography of British municipal history prepared primarily for the student and not for the book-buyer. It "comprises books, pamphlets, magazine articles, and papers of learned societies" relating to the "governmental or constitutional history of the boroughs of Great Britain, including gilds and parliamentary representation. Town histories which do not deal with any of these topics, purely topographical works, and parish histories are omitted." The literature thus left out is of vast extent. Turner, for example, announces a "hand-book for buyers and sellers" under title of *Ten Thousand Yorkshire Books*; while Dr. Gross points out that in Vol. III. of Hyett and Bazeley's *Manual of Gloucestershire Literature* 337 octavo pages are devoted to Bristol alone.

The *Bibliography* comprises in all its divisions 3092 numbers, some of them of course indicating extensive sets or collections. In the more important cases the author, often at the cost of much time and labor, has indicated the character of the work or given a concise analysis of its contents, while conscientiously marking those which he has not been able personally to examine. The aid in this way afforded the student is frequently of the most painstaking and useful kind; as for instance (pp. 35-38) in listing the principal cases in the law reports relating to municipal questions; or throughout the book in giving page references to the public records, parliamentary reports and other papers.

The work opens with an introduction, prepared in the author's compact and thorough way, in which the character and state of preservation of the public records, town archives, and town chronicles are discussed, with an account of the general histories of boroughs and the histories of particular towns. Dr. Gross comments on the shameful lack of care often shown in regard to preserving the town archives. Thus according to the Historical Manuscripts Commission the most ancient records of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis were removed from a "stable in which they were deposited as so much rubbish;" and so escaped the "house-maid and the fire-grate, to whose tender mercies a considerable portion of them had been already consigned." It is also noteworthy that neither the general nor the local historians have made much intelligent use of the town records.

The bibliography itself is divided into two parts. The first part, comprising numbers 1 to 919, is classified as follows in fourteen categories: bibliographies and catalogues (nos. 1-43); general public records (nos. 44-77); general municipal histories (nos. 78-94); the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods (nos. 95-117); the later Middle Ages, 1066-1500 (nos. 118-148); modern times, 1500-1800 (nos. 149-169); nineteenth century: municipal reform (nos. 170-284\*); parliamentary history (nos. 285-527); guilds (nos. 528-567); county histories (nos. 568-676); the Cinque Ports (nos. 677-705); Ireland (nos. 706-754); Scotland (nos. 755-893); miscellaneous—England and Wales (nos. 894-919). The second part relates to the literature and records of particular towns, the arrangement being alphabetical from Aberdeen to Youghal (nos. 920-3092). Some idea of the scope of the work may be gained from the fact that more than four hundred cities, boroughs, and towns are dealt with in this division.

Dr. Gross's book ought to stimulate and greatly aid in organizing the scientific study of municipal history in both America and Great Britain. Here is a vast field for research. The institutional development of hundreds of individual towns is yet to be traced; and perhaps some time we may have a general constitutional history of English boroughs. The last-named task can fall into no safer hands than those of the editor of the *Coroner's Rolls* and the author of the *Merchant Gild*.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

*History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate, 1649-1660.* By SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER. Vol. II., 1651-1654. (London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green and Co. 1897. Pp. xxii, 503.)

MR. GARDINER's last volume, being the second of his history of the Commonwealth and the Protectorate, maintains the character of the series, which as a work of research into the annals of this period is admirable and is likely to be final. The materials unhappily are meagre. There is no good writer of memoirs; no Pepys or Horace Walpole, to